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In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 61-68, 70 and 77 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 71 and 76, as follows:

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71. (Twice Amended) A peptide compound comprising a structure:

A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J

wherein

A is pyro-Glu, Ac-D-Nal, Ac-D-Qal, Ac-Sar, or Ac-D-Pal;

B is His or 4-Cl-D-Phe;

C is Trp, D-Pal, D-Nal, L-Nal-D-Pal(N-O), or D-Trp;

D is Ser;

E is N-Me-Ala, Tyr, N-Me-Tyr, Ser, Lys(iPr), 4-Cl-Phe, His, Asn, Met, Ala, Arg

or Ile;

F is [selected from the group consisting of] D-Asn[,] or D-Gln [and D-Thr];

G is Leu or Trp;

H is Lys(iPr), Gln, Met, or Arg;

I is Pro; and

J is Gly-NH₂ or D-Ala-NH₂;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5 76. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide compound of any one of claims [61-68, 70,] 71, 73, 74 or 75 [or 73-75], and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

REMARKS

Claims 61-68, 70, 71 and 73-77 were pending. Claims 61-68, 70 and 77 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 71 and 73-76 are currently pending.

With regard to claim 77, Applicants note that in the Office Action dated August 29, 1997 (Paper No. 22), this claim was withdrawn by the Examiner as being drawn to a

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nonelected invention. Accordingly, claim 77 has been canceled without prejudice to further prosecution in a divisional application.

Claims 61-68 and 70 also have been canceled without prejudice. Cancellation of these claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and was done solely to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant believes to be his invention in order to expedite prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

Claim 71 has been amended to further specify the "F" group and claim 76 has been amended to depend from the currently pending claims. Support for these amendments can be found in the claims as previously pending. No new matter has been added. Applicant requests that the claim amendments be entered. Amendment of the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and was done solely to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant believes to be his invention in order to expedite prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the claims as pending after the amendments herein is presented in Appendix A.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants believe that all pending claims remain in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth in the Response dated February 27, 1998.

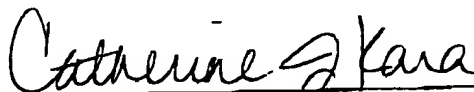
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If a telephone conversation with Applicant's Agent would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's Agent at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,



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